



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF POOR, AND COMMITTEE
TO SELL TOWN PROPERTY,

AND THE

Superintending School Committee,

OF THE

TOWN OF HUDSON.

New Hampshire
STATE LIBRARY,

~~AUG 11 1896~~

No.....

For the Political Year 1868-9.

NASHUA:

MOORE & LANGLEY, PRINTERS,

1869.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
TOWN OF HUDSON

AND THE

Superintendent of the
School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF HUDSON

STATE LIBRARY
AUG 11 1888

For the Political Year 1888

W. A. H. H.

HOOD & LUTHER

1888

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

STATE OF THE TREASURY FEB. 19, 1868.

Outstanding taxes, 'Thomas Hill list 1867,	11 75
“ “ “ “ “ 1868,	1,909 15
Cash in the treasury,	858 42
Actual state of the treasury,	<u>2,779.42</u>

STEPHEN D. GREELEY,	} Selectmen of Hudson.
BENJAMIN F. CHASE,	
BENJAMIN A. MERRILL,	

RECEIPTS.

Feb. 19, 1868, whole amount as above,	2,779 42
Town, School, State, County and Dog tax,	8,422 04
Proceeds of auction sale of town prop- erty,	7,818 80
Borrowed money,	400 00
County of Hillsborough relief of pau- pers,	3 00
Nashua Bank tax,	328 20
Milford “ “	17 73
State savings Bank tax,	611 00
“ railroad “	283 44
U. S. Bounties,	<u>400 00</u>
Whole amount of receipts,	21,063 63

DISBURSEMENTS.

Notes and Parts of Notes and Interest.

Paid Reuben Taylor, note and interest,	521 86
F. M. Winn, " " "	122 89
James Nicholds, " " "	1,023 69
Caleb Richardson, " " "	71 52
R. R. Strong, notes and salary and accounts,	1,648 68
Ann M. Holt, note and interest,	940 90
Sybil Grant, part of note and inter- est,	560 00
Hiram Marsh, part of note and inter- est,	50 00
Eliza A. Warren,	150 00
Nehemiah Hunt,	4,256 35
	<hr/> 9,345 89
Interest on notes,	612 28
F. Wilson, for over assessment of taxes for 1866-7,	3 44
Charles Smith, non-resident high way tax,	2 97
Bartlett Pease, services for poor,	4 00
Samuel E. Merrill, for support of his son,	35 00
Insane Asylum, for A. J. Fish, and Mrs. R. K. Griffin,	150 69
for relief of James Corliss,	3 00
Henry Smith, for relief of Thomas Smith,	22 36
Horace J. Hamblet, relief of his mother,	26 00
R. R. Strong, horse harness,	25 00
C. F. Livingston, printing town re- ports,	42 00
R. R. Strong, part payment of horse,	28 00
Insane Asylum, for support of Mrs. R. K. Griffin,	70 42

Robert A. Andrews, land damage,	75 00
R. R. Strong, being cash paid by him for labor on cross road,	52 50
R. R. Strong, being cash paid by him at alms house,	48 42
Samuel Walker, for public watering trough,	3 00
S. Alpheus Steele, plank for high- way and guide board,	20 82
A. J. Belknap, for over assessment of taxes 1868,	9 85
Sargent & Cross, for lumber and saw- ing,	5 67
S. C. Foster, over assessment of tax- es 1868,	3 95
George W. Hills, goods for Samuel March,	3 61
George W. Hills, oil and wicking for T. F. Bridge,	24 20
C. F. Dane, over assessment of tax- es 1868,	1 58
Ackerman & Reed, meat for alms house,	9 11
C. W. Spalding, public watering trough,	3 00
Kimball Webster, for surveying, cal- culating, &c., town farm,	10 50
Kimball Webster, for Stevens as clerk making bills &c., at auction,	9 50
Moore & Langley, printing bills and advertising,	6 50
A. J. Rockwood, coffin and robe for S. March,	11 50
A. J. Rockwood, coffin for Amos Hamblet,	8 00
Verder & Co., goods for alms house,	37 97
C. H. Campbell, services as auction- eer,	36 00
John Gillis, for repairing T. F. Bridge,	18 25

Eli Hamblet, relief of Thomas Smith,	35 16
“ “ for services as treasurer, and recording taxes and express bill,	25 25
Eli Hamblet, for boarding Thomas Butler 13 weeks,	39 00
James Emery, for medical services and use of bull,	10 00
R. P. Smith, sheep damage by dogs,	6 00
Barr & Co., for oil and can for T. F. Bridge,	16 00
James Carnes, services lighting T. F. Bridge,	30 00
James Carnes, lanterns for T. F. Bridge,	6 00
Thomas Hill, for abatement of taxes,	89 01
J. K. Wheeler, public watering trough,	3 00
Alden Hill, cash paid by him for printing tax bills,	2 50
Alden Hill, non-resident highway taxes,	39 75
S. D. Greeley, services as selectman and overseer of poor,	75 00
B. F. Chase, services as selectman and overseer of poor,	60 00
B. A. Merrill, services as selectman and overseer of poor,	30 00
S. D. Greeley, services as committee to sell town farm,	25 00
B. F. Chase, services as committee to sell town farm,	12 00
B. A. Merrill, services as committee to sell town farm,	10 00
Eli Hamblet, cash paid for the town,	30 59
S. D. Greeley, “ “ “ “	20 59
Alden Hill, part payment for collecting,	132 00
Calvin Pollard, sheep damage done by dogs,	10 00
	<hr/> 1,527 40

SCHOOL MONEY PAID.

School district No. 1,	B. A. Merrill,	98 61
" " " 2,	G. W. Berry,	147 16
" " " 3,	S. Walker,	78 88
" " " 4,	Mark Batchelder,	113 61
" " " 5,	C. F. Dane,	48 94
" " " 6,	C. M. Hill,	96 61
" " " 7,	Israel Young,	86 03
" " " 8,	R. A. Andrews,	78 88
" " " 9,	John Senter,	78 88
" " " 10,	J. H. Shaw,	78 88
Amount of school money paid,		<hr/> 906 48
"	state tax,	2,256 25
"	county tax,	771 02
Total amount of disbursements,		<hr/> 15,401 84
Total amount of receipts,		21,063 63
Balance in favor of the town,		5,661 79

STATE OF THE TREASURY FEB. 25, 1869

Cash in hands of treasurer,	408 33
Notes " "	3,647 97
Outstanding taxes, Thomas Hill's list 1867-8	225 39
" " Alden Hill's " 1868-9	1,380 10
<hr/>	
Present state of the treasury,	5,661 79

STEPHEN D. GREELEY,	} Selectmen of Hudson.
BENJAMIN F. CHASE,	
BENJAMIN A. MERRILL,	

The town is owing the following notes and interest.

Amasa Burnham,	1,090 00	
Francis Cragin, two notes,	7,378 00	
Laura H. Cain,	505 00	
Mary Rollins,	1,210 00	
Heirs of Nehemiah Hunt,	1282 00	
Austin Blodgett,	212 00	
First National Bank, Manchester,	6,460 00	
Silas Hunting,	620.00	
Martha W. Marsh,	132.00	
Gilman Andrews,	900.00	
Sarah Blodgett,	212.00	
Betsey Baldwin,	242.00	
Henry C. Marshall,	240.00	
Eliza A. Warren,	336.00	
William H. Cross,	670.00	
George Cutter,	636.00	
Joseph Hardey,	562.00	
W. O. Winn,	1,036.36	
Hiram Marsh,	200.00	
Sybil Grant,	520.00	
H. Newcomb,	1,300.00	
E. W. Upton,	3,075.00	
John Cummings,	340.00	
Jacob Davis,	550 00	
Heirs of John Burnham,	600,00	
Elijah Tinker,	448.00	
Hannah Harris,	116.00	
Thomas Hill for collecting,	218.09	
D. O. Smith, Med. Services,	25.00	
Mrs. J. Doyle, relief of Daughter,	24.00	
Henry Smith relief of Thomas Smith		
abatement, <i>about</i>	30.00	
Superintending School Committee,	40.00	—31,199.09
Cash notes and outstanding taxes as		
per abatement, <i>above</i>	5,661.79	
Due from city of Nashua for lighting		
Bridge,	35.10	
Bills due from proceeds of sale of		
Town Farm,	100.00	
Total indebtness of town, <i>over and</i>		—25,402.20

The present expenses of the poor are as follows :

For the support of Thomas Butler per week,	\$3.00
“ “ “ “ Sarah Doyle, “ “	.50
“ “ “ “ Wid. Amos Hamblet per week,	.50
“ “ “ “ Thomas Smith, about	1.00

The total expense of supporting the poor at the present time is about five dollars per week.

STEPHEN D. GREELEY,	} Selectmen of Hudson.
BENJAMIN F. CHASE,	
BENJAMIN A. MERRILL,	

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Superintending School Committee herewith submits his annual report.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Teachers.—Miss Emma L. Richardson ; Miss Louise M. Tuck.

This school which a few years ago was one of respectable numbers and high character has become one of our smallest, as will be seen by the annexed table. It is painful to one interested in the welfare of our schools to see them decreasing in numbers and in interest as many of them are.

The summer term was the teacher's first effort in the work of teaching. Previous to the opening of the school, your committee entertained no very sanguine hopes of her success, but truth compels him to admit that she exceeded his expectations. The term was, to a very good degree, profitable. Good order was secured and maintained by mild and persuasive means. The examination was satisfactory, showing fair progress in the different branches. The class in grammar sustained a good examination. An explanation of some examples in fractions from the board by Lottie T. Ford was excellent ; Lizzie F. Ford, Charlie T. Merrill and J. Freddie Burnet, are reported as being neither absent nor tardy.

The winter term was a successful one. All the concomitants of a good school—good order, quiet attention to studies prompt recitations were noticed at each visit of the committee. The average attendance upon the school was very much reduced by sickness, so that at the closing examination but a fraction of the school was present. Those who remained exhibited a good degree of improvement. Want of sufficient volume of voice was a prominent fault.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Teachers.—Miss Hannah E. Hardy ; Miss Mary E. Fuller,
of Amherst.

After a vacation of a little more than a year, the scholars of this district assembled in their neat, convenient and thoroughly renovated school house, under the instruction of Miss Hardy. We doubt not but that the citizens of this district will be amply repaid for all sacrifices made to repair their house in the many influences for good a respectable, convenient and tasteful school-room has upon the minds and hearts of their children. Miss Hardy also testifies that she could discover a restraining and refining influence at work upon her pupils. Not receiving seasonable notice of the close of the school, we regret that we cannot give a more specific report of its results. But from personal observation at the commencement of the term, and the testimony of those who were present at the examination and from the well known character of Miss H. as a teacher of intelligence and experience, we feel safe in asserting it a profitable one. Its numbers were increased by the attendance of a number of scholars from District No. 4. Mary A. Harris and Susie E. Melvin were neither tardy nor absent.

Too much cannot well be said in praise of the winter term. It deserves the highest encomiums. The teacher was one of large experience and thorough culture, using the most approved modes of instruction. She was both apt to teach and apt to govern. Rarely do we see in our schools such lively interest, such promptness and thoroughness in recitation, such untiring assiduity on the part of the teacher as we witnessed here. The examination furnished a delight-

ful repast. Where all did so well it is difficult to individualize. The recitations evinced great thoroughness on the part of the teacher, and great diligence on the part of the scholars. There are some specimens of fine scholarship in this school. This school is taking a high stand and reflects honor upon the town.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Teacher.—Miss M. Edwina Greely.

This school is a denial of the popular opinion, that a small school is an easy one to manage. It requires greater abilities than its numbers would seem to demand. Miss Greely is as teacher of energy, and she gave her best endeavors to the benefit of her pupils. At the examination, improvement was manifested in reading, although too much haste was the prevailing fault incurred no doubt by the laudable effort to improve as fast as possible.

The difficulties with which the teacher had to contend, and which detracted from the usefulness of the school, may be inferred from the truthful remarks of the teacher in her report from which we make an extract. "During the term of twelve weeks only one parent has visited the school; this shows how much interest there is in this district. It is encouraging to the teacher certainly . . . In closing I would say that it would without doubt be a great benefit to a few of the scholars if they could attend a school where politeness was taught, or at least civility to strangers, as a teacher is not only held accountable for the time spent in the school room, in the house of study, but must see that politeness is practiced out of school." Your committee cannot improve upon these remarks, but recommend them to the consideration of the parents.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Teachers.—Miss Hattie E. Chase, of Nashua; Mr. James Moor, of Nashua.

The summer term was taught by the youngest of teachers, but of some experience. She entered this school with a determination to succeed, and brought to it some of those elements of character adapted to the peculiar wants of this

school, viz : energy, firmness and decision. Excellent order was the legitimate result—the best ever before noticed by the committee in this school. All the work of the school-room was thoroughly systematized and energetically conducted, too energetically for some of the pupils in their own estimation, and consequently absented themselves during the last part of the term. In all possible instances we prefer the milder to the severer mode of discipline but in a school like this we consider the latter method eminently superior to laxity of government. Hence we sustain the teacher in the enforcement of *all* wholesome regulations. Had the teacher exhibited more of the winning influences of mildness and sympathy in her bearing towards her pupils it would have prevented the unkind feeling which existed between them and proved so great a barrier to improvement. The final examination showed in some instances marked improvement, in others not so marked.

The result of the winter term evinced the economy of securing the services of a thorough, practical teacher. Such was Mr. Moor. He awakened and sustained to the last a great interest in his school and the progress was great in proportion. He secured to an unusual degree the respect and affection of his pupils. The interest beget extended beyond the school room to the homes of his pupils, and in evidence of this is the fact that fifty dollars were subscribed by the district to extend the term, and also by the goodly numbers of both young and old present at the closing examination. The examination showed a large amount of thorough practical training on the part of the teacher and diligence on the part of the pupils. It would be pleasant to particularize did space permit. The classes in geography and mental arithmetic deserve honorable mention. We think Mr. Moor's reputation would have been sensibly increased had he required less latitude in the conduct of his pupils. Almira Atwood, Ella F. Blodgett, Lydia Batchelder, Carrie A. Batchelder, John J. Baker and George W. Marshall were not absent a single half day.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Teacher.—Miss Arabell Smith, of Lawrence.

Miss Smith is a teacher of limited experience, having

taught one term previous to this. She came to this school with a determination to succeed and improve upon her former effort upon which your committee made some strictures. She entered upon the discharge of duties with the same earnest working spirit which characterized her previous effort. A decided improvement was made in the several classes in Mathematics. We were particularly gratified at the attainments in spelling, no other one of the summer schools producing so great a per cent. of good spellers. Much praise is due them for the lively interest they took in this important branch of learning. The classes in grammar did not manifest as good improvement as was desirable. A larger exhibition of firmness and decision would increase the teacher's efficiency as a disciplinarian. Although at each visit of the committee the order was quite fair, still we have good reason to believe it was not what it should have been throughout the term.

A winter term was commenced by Miss Hattie M. Blood, of Hollis, but after continuing one week sickness compelled her to leave the school and it was not recommenced. We regret that it could not have again commenced as it gave more than ordinary promise of success.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Teacher,—Miss Emogene Thomas

Both terms of this school were under the tuition of a thorough, intelligent scholar. She appeared to devote herself to the best interests of her school, laboring earnestly and faithfully to promote their growth in knowledge. Of the branches pursued in the summer term, the first class in Colburn's arithmetic, the classes in grammar and history deserve a word of commendation. Special pains were taken with class in Colburn's arithmetic, and at the examination your committee awarded them the first rank in this branch of study, taking into consideration their ages, but he found a class in District No. 8 which he places above them. The winter term was similarly conducted. The interest in Colburn's arithmetic was fully sustained, and improvement in the several classes in reading was quite evident. Some of the younger readers had acquired the habit of a kind of drawling cadence, and which is proving contagious. It will require per-

sistant effort to eradicate this habit ; a larger display of energy and disciplinary powers would have produced greater results. It is not to be expected that a school composed mostly of young scholars as this is, will exhibit that life and enthusiasm which one of older and more appreciative pupils will, but there is a decided lack of these qualities in this school, and requires great activity and earnestness to awaken their slumbering energies and incite them to exertion. Martha E. Leach, Eliza A. Thomas, Minnie L. Thomas, Nellie M. Thompson, Belle J. Thompson, and Frank Butterfield were not absent nor tardy.

DISTRICT No. 7.

Teacher.—Mrs. Sarah F. Blood, of Londonderry.

There was but one term of school in this district during the year commencing Sept. 7th.

Your committee cannot write a very charitable report of this term of school. At his first visit the order was quite imperfect, and serious apprehensions were entertained as to its success, especially as it is one which requires firm, stringent government. Not hearing any unfavorable reports until near the close of the term, a second visit was then made at which it was evident that the teacher had lost that controlling influence over her pupils without which success is impossible, and a disorderly and unprofitable school was the result. Rather than close the school legally, especially after having progressed so far in the term, the prudential committee was informed of its state and advised it to close immediately without an examination, as it would be alike creditable to teacher and parents and for the good of the scholars. But he taking different views saw fit to continue it another week when it closed regularly. It is due to the teacher to say that she did her best under the circumstances to instruct the pupils. Each pupil had evidently learned something. A class in history recited its facts with great fluency and accuracy. Willie W. Eaton, Alfred L. Simpson, Ada S. Simpson and Helen V. Steele were neither absent nor tardy.

DISTRICT No. 8.

Teachers.—Miss M. Edwina Greely ; Mr. Alvin P. Esty, of Nashua.

The summer term was only six weeks in length, and was

Miss Greely's first experience in teaching. Taking into consideration the facts all was accomplished that could be reasonably expected. The school always appeared well conducted and orderly when visited and closed with a satisfactory examination. The classes in spelling, with a few laudible exceptions, failed to do themselves credit. The register which was neatly and accurately kept, records a larger number of visits from citizens and others than has been made to any other of our schools. Two are reported as not having wispered during the term.

The winter term was the first effort of a young man in teaching a common district school. He brought to this school a mind well qualified to instruct in every branch and well sustained himself to the end. A little more life and animation in the school room would have increased his efficiency. The examination was conducted without the best appearance of display, and was a clear and honest exhibit of acquisition actually made during the term. The exercises were not brilliant but the general intelligence of the pupils was very evident. A class in Colburn's arithmetic had received very thorough instructions, also a class in physical geography sustained a thorough examination. The reading exercises would have made a good record were it not for feeble utterance which destroyed much of their beauty. We are sorry they have not sustained their hitherto acquired reputation for good voices. Arthur Andrews, Edgar L. Smith, George E. Cross, Durham Melvin, Josephine Melvin were neither absent nor tardy.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Teacher.—Miss Fannie Montgomery, of Derry.

This district has had but one term of school commencing Sept. 7th. Miss Montgomery is a teacher of some experience, and appeared unusually well at examination. She gave her best endeavors to benefit her pupils, adhering strictly to the principle of thorough instruction. The commencement of the term gave unusual signs of an eminently successful one. But the examination evinced that it was by no means as successful as its commencement gave reason to expect. Laxity in government and its accompaniments detached from its prosperity. The register indicates by its

record of regular attendance and tardiness a want of interest too evident to be mistaken. Still the progress in study was fair. Carrie M. Kidder was neither absent nor tardy.

DISTRICT No. 10.

Teacher.—Miss Helen A. Cummings.

This school continues in the even tenor of its way, ever quiet, studious and respectful. The teacher was inexperienced, but by faithful and conscientious labor accomplished results entirely satisfactory to the committee and we doubt not to the friends of the school. Good improvement was made in all branches pursued. Lizzie J. Baldwin, George W. Cummings were neither absent nor tardy.

We had no reason to explain last year that spelling had not received that amount of attention which its importance demands. The number of good spellers in our schools is lamentably small. As an incentive to greater attainments in this important branch, your committee promised to report the names of those who should be perfect on the day of examination, your committee proposing the words from the ground gone over during the term. The following list of names is inserted as a deserved meed of praise for the interest they have manifested in this study.

District No. 1, *Lottie Ford, *Gertie Wilson.

District No. 2, Augusta Melvin, Clara J. Winn, Mary L. Winn, Katie E. McGuire, Gerge Stewart, Philip J. Cornell. Willie R. Melvin, Charles L. Spaulding.

District No. 3, Jennie Chase.

District No. 4, Summer Term—Emogene Barrett, John Baker. Winter Term—*Almira Atwood, *Clara L. Parker, *Ella B. Blodgett, *Lyda L. Batchelder, *Alfretta Batchelder, *Lizzie Clyde, *Maron Joy, Emogene Barrett,

District No. 5, Lizzie Emery, Arvilla Hamblet, Amanda Smith, Jennie Burnham, Minnie Smith, Jessie Burnham, John Burns, Eddie Robinson, Irving Smith, Willie Hamblet.

District No. 7, Rachel Osgood.

District No. 8, Josephine Melvin.

District No. 9, Fannie Jones.

District No. 10, Lizzie Baldwin.

*Were perfect during the term.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

District Number.	TERM.	No. of visits by Supt. Committee.											
		No. visits by citizens.											
		History.											
		Composition.											
		Geography.											
		Grammar.											
		Arithmetic.											
		No. Studying Penmanship.											
		No. instances of tardiness.											
		Average attendance.											
		No. of scholars.											
		Wages of teacher per month including board.											
		Length of school in weeks.											
1	Summer.....	9	4	00	19	16	37	7	14	2	8	0	2
	Winter.....	10	28	00	18	12	44	12	13	5	0	0	2
2	Fall.....	9	20	00	15	11	53	10	13	7	6	0	2
3	Winter.....	12	19	00	15	10	38	3	13	2	4	0	3
4	Summer.....	8	7	4 00	46	36	23	23	22	7	19	6	0
	Winter.....	12	*		50	42	253	40	46	16	18	10	0
5	Summer.....												
6	Summer.....	12	7	12.	17	16	5	9	12	2	7	1	2
	Winter.....	11	20	00	23	16	23	14	19	2	10	1	1
7	Fall.....	10	19	00	23	20	32	16	21	7	10	0	2
8	Summer.....	6	16	00	25	21	6	17	24	2	9	0	0
	Winter.....	9	28	00	26	23	100	17	26	7	10	20	0
9	Fall.....	11	*		23	18	22	11	19	7	10	0	0
10	Summer.....	7	20	00	14	11	12	7	12	1	5	0	1
	Winter.....	7	20	00	11	10	11	6	10	2	6	0	1

*Not reported. †Excluding board.

REMARKS.

Another year has completed its circuit, and we are once again at the starting point, from which we are permitted, by the goodness of God, to look back upon a year of general prosperity to our schools. We have great cause for thankfulness that the merciful Disposer of events has preserved to so great an extent the lives and health of our youth, and has continued unto them the blessings of common school education.

The success of our schools the past year has been various. We have had a few superior schools—schools which have nobly answered the ends for which they were designed ; and we feel it but just to state that a part of the censure should fall upon us for not guarding with greater vigilance the door of admission to these responsible places of trust. But we are not willing to bear *all* the blame ; we think Prudential Committees who in some instances have not made judicious selections must share with us the censure. To be sure the Superintending Committee is made the legal judge of the qualifications of candidates, and can reject incompetant ones ; but it is evident to every one that there are several degrees between those who are simply legally qualified, and those of superior qualifications. If the candidate is legally qualified we do not feel at liberty to withhold a certificate, though we may be confident that he will not excel as an instructor. Hence the necessity of securing at the outset, if possible, good teachers. To secure excellent schools we must have

excellent teachers. “*Like teacher, like pupil*” should not be forgotten in selecting a teacher.

Nor is it just to charge all the delinquencies of our schools upon the teacher alone. We owe something to them, as well as they to us. Nothing is so disheartening to a conscientious teacher as to be left alone week after week, and month after month without any notice or encouragement from those who should take the deepest interest in them. We speak what we *do* know. A comparison of the number of visits made to our schools during the past year, with those made ten years ago shows a great falling off in number. This ought not so to be. Not more certainly does the mercury indicate the degree of temperature than the character of our schools the degree of interest felt in them by the parents. Children are always interested in whatever interests their parents.

Let the same interest be felt for the success of our schools that is manifested in political affairs, and our children would catch the enthusiasm and we should soon see a great improvement in them. Let the mothers take their knitting or sewing and go over to the school-room and there spend a half-day in the presence of their children and the teacher. It will show them that they are looked after, that you take an interest in them, and will stimulate them to greater exertion.

We shall conclude our report with a few remarks upon the many topics suggested by our observation.

And first, we have noticed a too overweening sensitiveness on the part of some in regard to their children's being corrected at school. To such we would say, that it is one of the grand purposes of our schools to train children to habits of obedience to rightful authority, for on these rests the whole fabric of our system of free government. Hence the necessity of sustaining teachers in the enforcement of that mild, yet strict and efficient discipline which shall foster in our children a proper reverence for authority. If they are not thus sustained, school government must be given up, and the school itself may as well be annihilated. If a parent has any good reason to believe that the teacher is seriously at fault, rather than do anything to undermine her authority and influence, would it not be far wiser to consult the teacher privately or call the attention of the committee to the case.

Let it be a principle that as long as a scholar is a member of the school his unqualified obedience shall be insisted on.

Another topic kindred to this is, the making the scholars like or dislike of the teacher the condition of his obedience. It is very desirable that scholars should like their teacher, and the teacher should ever seek the good will of the scholars, but she should not be made to stand or fall solely by the like or dislike of her scholars; otherwise school government is reversed and the teacher becomes the slave of her pupils. It is often a good sign that a certain scholar dislikes his teacher.

And again, do not let the school-room be the battle ground on which to settle "old grudges," etc. If they must be settled let it be almost any other place but the school-room. Sacrifice not the dearest interests of your children to the detestible spirit of partyism and selfishness.

SCHOOL HOUSES.—Many of our school-houses are in great need of plastering, whitewashing and painting within. Would not a latch upon the inside doors of the rooms in Districts No. 3 and 9 save the teacher the trouble of removing a stick of wood before one can enter the room, besides contributing to the quietness of the school. Think you those ludicrous and obscene pictures are exerting a salutary influence upon the morals of your children? Would not a little paint and paper contribute to decency and refinement? We would earnestly call the attentions of Prudential Committees and others to this subject.

Waiving all other topics of interest, we invite your attention to our Common Schools. They should be the objects of our greatest solicitude. In them the work of education commences; in them the mind receives many impressions and inclinations which will greatly affect its subsequent career. If we would have them attain high excellence we must carefully foster, liberally support and furnish them with our best teachers. If we fail to recognize our youth when children, we shall be fully aware of them when they are men, with the same rights as ourselves, as dead weights on society. Our times demand men and women of sterling worth—of body, mind and soul. Let us then look well to our Common Schools. With many thanks to those who have aided us in

our labors, we resign our trust into the hands of those who gave it, hoping they will recommit it into the hands of those whose efforts will be crowned with greater success.

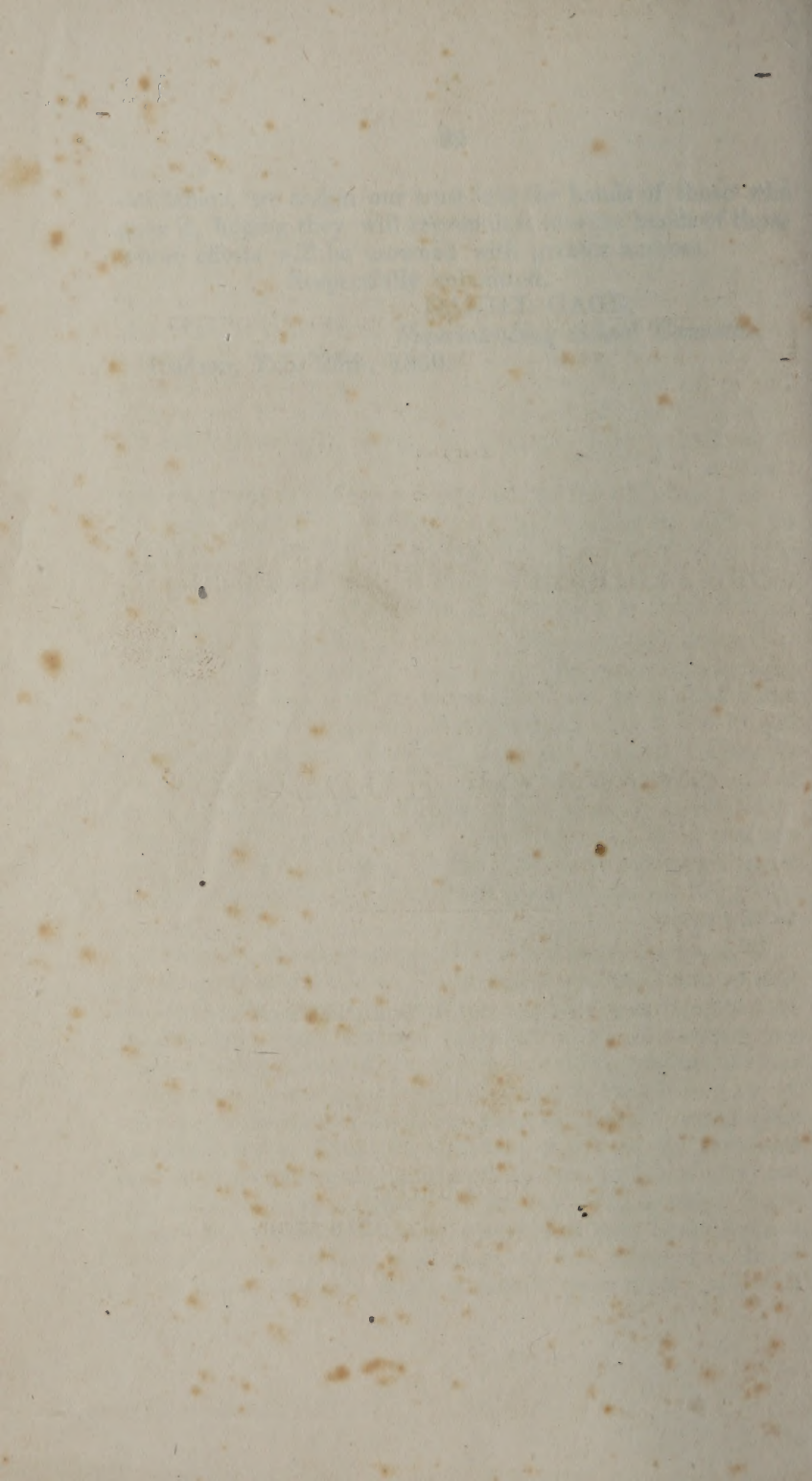
Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL GAGE,

Superintending School Committee.

Hudson, Feb. 25th, 1869.





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